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Today's Visitors

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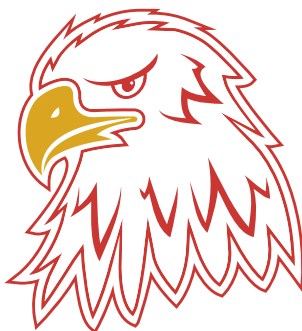
CHRIS NOBLE MBE

This is the first time I have to write my article following the cancellation of two of our home games One to York City Knights and One to Bradford Bulls.

It is a great disappointment to all the teams when a game is cancelled none more so than the Sheffield Eagles. However no matter how disappointing it is we, as responsible governors of the teams cannot and must not ignore the advice of our medical teams.

When we are informed by our medical advisors that we have Covid in the camp and must not play, then we are left with no alternative than to follow their instructions, no matter how upset our players are at not playing the game they love and that they want to be out there every week playing their chosen sport. We must follow protocol?

This year has been a year of disruption after a cancelled year last year. In an interview by Clair Balding (our President) on TV yesterday with Michael Johnson the ex- athlete, he said that this year all athletes had suffered from Covid, either directly or by association, whether physically or mentally and this year should not be used as a guide to the future and our president agreed with him. This is none more so



than in our great game of Rugby League.

We have been informed that there is no perfect solution to the next year of our great sport however on a personal note I do not think there should be relegation from SLE or from Championship in this disrupted year it will be totally unfair. I don't disagree with the promotion of two into SLE and

two from Championship 1 to Championship as those teams will have fought for the place but to punish teams with relegation in this totally disrupted year is massively unfair?

May I now welcome Mr Chris Hamilton, Chairman of Oldham Roughyheads together with their Rugby league advisor Brian McDermott (I think the most decorated coach in Super league), the player's backroom staff and all the spectators.

At our last run out we played the Halifax Panthers and apart from the last ten minutes we should have won the game. Having been to Swinton yesterday to watch Oldham and Swinton Lions, in a game that finished in a draw I can tell you we will need to be at the top of our game to come away with the spoils. It was a game where neither Swinton (under their newly promoted coach or Oldham under their recently brought in advisor took a backward step. It was a fast flowing game and we need to match that determination to win.

Enjoy the game everyone.



TUBBY TALK

MARK ASTON SPEAKS TO MATT YOUNG

It's certainly been another testing period for the club as the fixture list has taken another battering in recent weeks.

I remember stating in my first set of programme notes back in March that we can expect hitches during this season because, whilst we are grateful to be back playing again, Covid has certainly not gone away.

We're unfortunate that this is the second time we have been hit, but this is the reality of the situation which has gripped the world, we just have to get on with it.

We've lost two games now because, quite rightly, the health and wellbeing of everyone at the club has to come first, therefore we had no choice but to postpone the games against York and Bradford.

We're not the only team in rugby league deeply affected by the situation, and sadly we won't be the last either.

On the positive side, when you rewind the clock 12 months it was hard to see a situation when we would be playing at all, so whilst we are frustrated with the situation we find ourselves in, we also have to be thankful we are playing at all.

We now have the tricky task of what to do going forward. As I sit to put together these notes, we are confident that can proceed with today's game with Oldham, provided we have no further cases of Covid in the build-up to the game.

To get back out there today will be a major boost, but of course when you are in a situation such as ours, preparations are far from ideal.

Trying to rearrange matches for midweeks is difficult.

I have made my feelings known in the past about games in quick succession, there has to be a consideration to player welfare

"We're unfortunate that this is the second time we have been hit, but this is the reality of the situation which has gripped the world, we just have to get on with it."

and managing the workload on these lads. We are part-time, many of our lads will need time off work to play midweek, they then put their bodies on the line for 80 minutes and most of them are back in work the next day, it's a big ask and we have to be mindful of his.

We welcome everyone from Oldham to the Keepmoat this afternoon for what is another important and tough test.

We pipped them last time in what was a very close and entertaining game and I expect another stern test again this afternoon.

Thanks again for all your support and enjoy being back watching some rugby league!

Enjoy the game.

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I am writing this piece after our Tuesday night round of lateral flow tests at the club's training session and I'm pleased to say everyone tested negative!

It's been a challenging few weeks, with the York and Bradford postponements. It's disappointing from some quarters that the club have 'played the system' in relation to cancelling matches. The rules the RFL put in place, all were aware of before the start of the season and the club have simply followed those with our players and staff welfare our top priority when it came to our decision making and remains so.

With this I'd like to thank all our supporters, sponsors, and partners for their understanding of the situation – we were all geared up for our return here against York City Knights on 01 August for what should have been a great clash, with both clubs taking the spoils in the league and cup so far this year and its bitterly disappointing it didn't happen.

We've six more scheduled matches until the end of the season and the club fully intend to fulfil all these fixtures – here's hoping we've no more cases in the camp.

Turning to the Olympic Legacy Park it's fantastic to see the build progressing at speed and bricks finally being put in place! As always, keep up to date with the stadium progress on

THE OFFICE

LIAM CLAFFEY

a weekly update with our #Stadium-Saturdays on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



We are in the final stages of the agreement and will announce news on that very soon.

You'll no doubt have seen the news regarding the postponement of the Rugby League World Cup until next year. Whilst very sad and trying for all those involved, especially as the move is down to self-interests but I'm sure with a further year

to promote the tournament (after confirming stadiums / schedule) then it will be a great spectacle and a shot in the arm the sport truly needs.

Finally, you may have saw the various news / rumours surrounding changes to the Championship and sport with restructuring of leagues, changes in finances and so on...

The sport is at a crossroad and whilst drastic changes are needed to steady the ship and turn it round, some of the proposed changes we disagree with. Sheffield Eagles have submitted our thoughts / concerns / questions to the RFL and they are based on both what we believe is best for the club but also the sport as a whole.



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COMMERCIAL

MARK HANNIGAN

For the first time in what seems like a lifetime, I would like to welcome our guests and sponsors to our hospitality Lounge

It seems like a while since we last played and having had a few games in Wakefield, it seems like forever since we have been "at home", all be it at the Keepmoat.

Following on from this, it would be remiss of me at this point not to mention The OLP and how exciting seeing the building works progress is. I mention this, as it has had a knock-on effect to the commercial side of the club. We are starting to see an influx of enquiries to, myself and the club to start discussions around commercial Sponsorship and the opportunities around the club. This is all positive news to me.

I mentioned in my last programme notes, following the lifting of restrictions, we have booked the first of our business lunches following the pandemic. The event will be held at The OEC on Friday 26th November! The event will be our Christmas special and full of fun, as well as a great environment to meet businesses and build contacts. If you would like to register your interest in this event, please drop me an email. Our formal marketing material for the event will be out before the end of the month.



A big thank you to Andrew Biggs from Elmo House for sponsoring this event.

The Business lunches have traditionally been exceptionally popular, attracting 200 + Guests to social events where positive connections can be made and business passed. If you know of any business who would like to take advantage of this social scene to build their contact base, please pass them in my direction and I will be glad to help them get involved. With the postponement of the World Cup, we hope this event will be even more popular as the Final was due to be the following day.

I mention this a lot but it is so important to The Club, I would like to urge everyone to follow us online, and from my perspective, Linked In. We will be using this platform for the commercial side of the club and interacting with our sponsors. It is a powerful tool that we will be taking full advantage of.

For more information on any of the events or the commercial side of the club, please feel free to drop me a line or email mark.hannigan@sheffielddeagles.com



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There is plenty to up date on as the Eagles Foundation progresses on with its work.

Wheelchair Rugby League is going from strength to strength in Sheffield, with our Monday night sessions now extended owing to the popularity and running from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, giving the more competitive players the chance to play for the last hour, with the first hour aimed at those wanting a more social session.

Its currently free to attend and no experience or your own sports wheelchair is required! Join us at Sheffield Hallam University's Pearson Building, Broomgrove Road, S10 2BP and enjoy an inclusive sport for all genders, ages and abilities.

We're very grateful to the Arnold Clark Community Fund who have recently donated £1,000 to the Foundation to help support the Wheelchair Rugby League programme, with money being used to help fund venue hire and provide equipment.

Our schools coaching programme has now come to an end with the beginning of the summer holidays and since Easter, 10 schools have been receiving their coaching thanks to a donation by Sports Traider Charity. Westways, Hatfield, Hartley Brook and Meynell had their coaching prior to the Spring half term, with Coit, Beck, Woodthorpe, Intake, Oasis Watermead and Hinde House currently taking part this half term.

FOUNDATION

DAVID BUTLER



Each school is being given 5 weeks of coaching for two groups of 30 kids, during which they will be introduced to basic skills such as catching, passing, running with the ball and be able to play tag Rugby League by the end of the sessions. All schools will be invited to a series of festivals which will take place in September, when Covid restrictions are lifted, with the school staff also having the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Rugby League with

some professional development being offered later in the year to all school's staff.

Sports Traider Charity is a charity which exists to give young people employment and sports participation opportunities to help them gain confidence, self-esteem, retail skills and improve mental and physical health.

They do this by managing a professionally run chain of charity sports shops, staff by employees and volunteers with funds raised invested back into sports participation projects. You can find out more about Sports Traider Charity by visiting their website www.sportstraider.com or @SportstraiderUK on social media. Pictured is Lance Haggith, Sports Charity Traider meeting Andrea Dobson, Eagles Foundation Development Officer.



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PERFORMANCE

SIMON VARDY

I thought it might be interesting for you all to read a little more about what it's like for the club looking after our players from a player performance and strength and conditioning perspective during the unusual circumstances of an enforced break due to covid like we have been through recently.

Firstly, it's probably worthwhile mentioning that we have been quite lucky, not with the fact we have had these breaks, but more in the fact that we have had very minimal numbers of actual cases, and more impact from close contacts – the silver lining to a frustrating cloud!

With this in mind it means that we are quite flexible in what we can actually do with the players whilst they are away from the club briefly.

Obviously any athlete who has tested positive has to rest and recover but for all those who aren't in that bracket, we can still keep ticking over despite not being in for our regular training. To do this we follow a very similar plan to what we did during the first lockdown last summer when we were initially unsure if we would be returning to play or not.

This plan is to give the players sessions they can do away from the club that would be relatively similar, in terms of work load and volume, to what we would do in the normal sessions.

This is where our partnership with SPT and the GPS tracking system comes in.

We wear these every training session as well as match days, and this gives us a good idea of various key bits of information such as total distance, sprint efforts, sprint meters and work rate to name a few, for how the sessions look from a performance perspective.

Interpreting this data correctly and then producing training sessions that they can do individually that recreate these elements is the key to maintaining at least our conditioning without having to bring everyone in.

So as you can see, a lot of different elements contribute towards keeping our athletes ready to hit the field running as soon as they're back in with minimal disruption and minimal catching up to do.





GUZDEK INTERVIEW

DAN FOWLER TALKS WITH JOSH GUZDEK

DF: Josh, it's been a weird build-up to this one with a couple of postponements in the past few weeks. How has the last few weeks been for you?

JG: We have had a bit of down-time but been tasked with some stuff to do away from the club, to keep those who can go out ticking over. Obviously we've had quite a few isolating who haven't been able to do a great deal other than maybe a bit in their garden. It's a bit stop-start, it'd have been nice carrying on the momentum from the Swinton and Halifax game but now the main focus is to get everyone back to training and then back to playing.

DF: Among all the feelings that go into not being able to play, where does frustration rank in that and especially after an improved performance against Halifax three weeks ago?

JG: It is frustrating as we started to play the way we want to. That has been disrupted due to a few positive cases. It's not great and a few of the lads were feeling a bit under the weather so they have to follow the Return to Play protocol. We do have to think about the welfare of them, it's not like they've just had a couple of weeks off as a few have had it pretty badly. Hopefully they can pick up where they left off when they come back.

DF: We have blown hot and cold throughout 2021, it's fair to say. How do you rate the season so far, both on a team and individual level?

JG: We have been inconsistent, with a couple of breaks in there with COVID, so it has been stop-start. We have had to deal with injuries too, which is something that will always happen, and I've had a couple of weeks on the sideline. The spine of the team has been chopped and changed but the last two games have seen us build some confidence. Earlier on

"It's not great and a few of the lads were feeling a bit under the weather so they have to follow the Return to Play protocol."

in the year, we were getting frustrated and things weren't coming off. We had a few losses and a tough run of games halfway through the year so all of that combined. We're starting to build a bit of confidence and things are starting to come off which is nice. Off the back of that, we hope to win some games and keep playing even better to put ourselves in a better picture than what we're in currently.

DF: We take on Oldham today, who are scrapping for their Championship lives. We'll have to be on our game to take the victory won't we?

JG: Everyone in the league, on their day, is competitive. It depends who turns up. Oldham have had some improved performances recently. They'll be strong up the middle as they always are and we need to be on our best form to overcome it. We need to be at our best to get the win and start building more confidence.



QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Did you change during lockdown?

Yes, I became a Dad!

Who would play you in a movie?

Ryan Reynolds

Biggest Influence on Career:

Paul Hatton - My S&C Coach @ Hull KR

Guilty Pleasure:

Love Island

Amateur Club:

Skirlaugh Bulls

Favourite Holiday:

Mexico - Cancun

Toughest Opponent:

Gareth Hock

Random Fact About You:

I can play the guitar

Favourite Movie:

Anchorman

Something you can't do:

Not finish a bag of sweets once open



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THE VISITORS

LEWIS COLEMAN

Oldham come into today's Round 17 Betfred Championship game aiming to record a league victory for the first time since early May.

The Roughyeds will be hoping to end the 2021 season with a flourish after a difficult 2021 which has seen just two league wins for the Greater Manchester side. Brendan Sheridan's side enjoyed a decent start to the season, beating Barrow Raiders in the first round of the Challenge Cup before exiting the competition a week later at the hands of Swinton Lions.

The Roughyeds have struggled since an opening day victory over the Lions, a week after their cup defeat, a singular victory over Halifax Panthers in Round four followed back-to-back defeats. Former Oldham head coach Matt Diskin was relieved of his duties at the end of July after nine successive league defeats.

Brendan Sheridan, Diskin's assistant has resumed the role of interim head coach, with former Leeds Rhinos and Toronto Wolfpack chief Brian McDermott having arrived at the club as a coaching consultant. Oldham came close to a first win under Sheridan's guidance last time out but were left with a draw against basement club Swinton Lions after the visitors surrendered a first-half lead.

Prop forward Tyler Dupree excelled in

the first half as the former Leeds man's doubled gave the Roughyeds a 0-12 lead at the break.

Swinton responded almost immediately in the second half, Lewis Hatton powered over from close range after a short pass from Luke Waterworth. Lloyd Roby extended the visitor's lead to 6-16 with a score on the left-hand side shortly after the Swinton score.

Swinton responded with two converted scores of their own and lead for the first time after a second try from Hatton and a Mike Butt effort in the left corner. Oldham then scored again to regain their lead. Swinton's Deane Meadows went in for the hosts but Ridyard couldn't continue his perfect day from the tee as both sides were left wanting more than a 22-22 stalemate.

Oldham interim head coach Brendan Sheridan is still on the search for his first win as Oldham chief since his appointment in late July. The Roughyeds have improved since Matt Diskin's departure as head coach, narrowly missing out 20-30 to London before last weekend's draw against Swinton has encouraged the Oldham faithful.

Oldham will see Sheffield as a good target for their first win under Sheridan's leadership, with today's visitors only losing narrowly in the return fixture at Bower Fold in June by 28-32.



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THREE TO WATCH

LEWIS COLEMAN



Ryan Ince

Oldham winger Ryan Ince has a decent pedigree and could cause issues for the Eagles on Sunday afternoon.

The former Widnes Vikings man joined the Roughyeds permanently this year after his loan spell at the club was cut short in 2020.

Ince scored 31 tries in 46 games over his four-year stint in Cheshire and will be looking to add to his try-scoring record today with Oldham.



Dan Abram

Versatile back Dan Abram is one of Oldham's dangermen with Oldham's goal-kicker now a consistent threat at the Championship level.

The 25-year-old joined Oldham after he spent time with Whitehaven and Rochdale Hornets respectively.

Abram, who can operate at full-back and in the halves could feature alongside his younger brother Jamie, who started at hooker last time out against Swinton.



Liam Kirk

Former Bradford Bulls forward Liam Kirk is likely to feature within the Oldham pack this afternoon.

Kirk, a product of the Bradford Bulls academy system left the West Yorkshire club ahead of the 2021 season for Oldham.

The 6ft 4 prop has contributed two tries in his first season at the club and will be hoping his performances can help resurrect Oldham in their relegation fight.



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Some people are good at sharing their time; others possessions; but many can struggle sharing their lives with others.

Maybe due to insecurities, fears or just can't be bothered to. What has stood out during the Olympics is how people have shown their respect for one another; not being afraid of sharing their emotions during no doubt a very difficult and different Olympics due to the pandemic and the absence of spectators. Ex USA Olympic runner Michael Johnson was asked by Claire Balding what had been the highlight of the games for him. No doubt most people watching were expecting him to reply about an individual Olympian, or a specific event, but his answer surprised her and no doubt the viewers when he said it was the emotions he would remember. The 'stand-out' thing for him from the Tokyo games was the emotions shown by those taking part.

One of the most exciting and unexpected moments in the games was when the two high jumpers decided to share gold. After jumping the same height of 2.37m and both not being able to beat a height of 2.39m Qatar's Mutaz Barshim and Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi discussed with the judges if they could share the gold. The picture of them hugging each other when they realised they could share the gold medal was magical.

These two athletes discovered and experienced what Julie Herbert says: 'Sharing is a wonderful thing, especially to those you've shared with.' The huge smiles on their faces when they decided to share the gold medal totally demonstrated this. What do you and I possess that we could share

CHAPLAINCY

BAZ GASCOYNE

with others? Something that will make them feel valued, appreciated & loved. It could be time, possessions, laughter, tears or life.

"Be willing to share your blessings. The only riches that last are the ones that are given away." David Khalil

When I have been on the end of receiving generosity from a friend, when they have shared something with me, I have felt very blessed. And the same when I have been able to do the same for someone else: I have benefitted as much as the person receiving.

Julie Herbert also said: "Life is filled with treasures, if you're a lucky one.

Be grateful and be humble, and share them with someone." I believe we all have treasures in our lives that we can share with each other when the opportunity arises. Let's not be afraid to reach out, show our emotions and share with each other the gems of our lives.

"I believe that people would be happier sharing things and being more of a collective rather than working from these neo-liberal ideas of just looking after yourself. People need each other." Karin Dreijer Andersson

"I believe that people would be happier sharing things and being more of a collective rather than working from these neo-liberal ideas of just looking after yourself. People need each other." Karin Dreijer Andersson



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TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
01. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
02. Rob Worrincy	●	●	●
03. Connor Bower	●	●	●
04. James Glover	●	●	●
05. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
06. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
08. Scott Wheeldon	●	●	●
09. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Bradley Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Robbie Ward	●	●	●
17. Frankie Mariano	●	●	●
18. Tyler Dickinson	●	●	●
19. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
20. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
22. Izaac Farrell	●	●	●
23. Harry Tyson-Wilson	●	●	●
24. Ryan Johnson	●	●	●
25. Jordan Bull	●	●	●
26. Chris Ball	●	●	●
27. Travis Corion	●	●	●
30. Max Clarke	●	●	●
31. Bobby Tyson-Wilson	●	●	●
32. Evan Hodgson	●	●	●
	●	●	●
	●	●	●

REFEREE: A. MOORE
TOUCH JUDGES: D. MARTIN & T. GIBBS

OLDHAM RLFC

T G DG

●	●	●	01. Dan Abram
●	●	●	02. Tommy Brierley
●	●	●	03. Ben Heaton
●	●	●	04. Cameron Leeming
●	●	●	05. Ryan Ince
●	●	●	06. Lewis Charnock
●	●	●	07. Dave Hewitt
●	●	●	08. Phil Joy
●	●	●	09. Gareth Owe
●	●	●	10. Jack Spencer
●	●	●	11. Danny Langtree
●	●	●	12. Liam Bent
●	●	●	13. Martyn Reilly
●	●	●	14. Matty Wilkinson
●	●	●	15. Luke Nelmes
●	●	●	16. Tyler Dupree
●	●	●	17. Liam Kirk
●	●	●	19. Matthew Fletcher
●	●	●	20. Jode Sheriffe
●	●	●	21. Shaun Pick
●	●	●	22. Kyran Johnson
●	●	●	23. Callum Green
●	●	●	24. Max Roberts
●	●	●	25. Danny Bridge
●	●	●	26. James Barran
●	●	●	27. Ben Holcroft
●	●	●	28. Joe Hartley
●	●	●	30. Declan Gregory
●	●	●	31. John Hutchings
●	●	●	33. Jamie Abram



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LATEST NEWS

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL MOVE

The RFL are delighted to welcome a two-year extension to Betfred's partnership with the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair Challenge Cups – which will include an historic Final at the superb Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in May 2022, before a return to Wembley Stadium in 2023.

The 2022 Betfred Challenge Cup Final will be played at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Saturday May 28 – the 121st Challenge Cup Final, marking the 125th anniversary of the first in 1897, and the first to be played in May since St Helens beat Wigan in Cardiff in 2004.

It will be the first Rugby League match at the state of the art, 62,850 capacity stadium – the third largest football stadium in England, which was opened in April 2019 – after the cancellation because of the Covid-19 pandemic of a Test that was scheduled for the 2020 Ashes Series between England and Australia.

The Betfred Challenge Cup Final will then return to Wembley Stadium in 2023. That will be the 80th Challenge Cup Final at Wembley since the bold decision to take the game's showpiece occasion

to the capital for the first time in 1929.

Ralph Rimmer, the RFL Chief Executive, said: "It's fantastic news for the sport to be able to confirm Betfred as title partners for the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair Challenge Cups for two more years – and to take our traditional showpiece to a magnificent new venue at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in 2022 before we return to Wembley in 2023.

"We were thrilled when Betfred extended their significant involvement in Rugby League to include the Challenge Cups in 2021. It came at a time of considerable uncertainty for all sport and has been crucial in allowing us to enjoy three memorable Betfred Challenge Cup campaigns, with all they mean to Rugby League communities - with St Helens victorious both in the Women's competition in June and again at Wembley last month when they beat Castleford in a compelling final and a superb occasion.

"For 2022 we were unable to find a space in the schedule that worked for both the RFL's and BBC's desire to play the Final earlier in the year. We are sure that Rugby League supporters and players will be excited by the prospect of experiencing the Betfred Challenge Cup Final at a new venue in the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in 2022, with a return to the event's spiritual home at Wembley in 2023.





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LATEST NEWS

RLWC2021 MOVES TO 2022

Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021) and the UK Government have today announced their intention to stage the flagship event in the international Rugby League calendar in 2022.

The extremely difficult decision was taken by the RLWC2021 Board, which includes representation from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the International Rugby League (IRL) Board.

This follows extensive and urgent consultation conducted by RLWC2021 Chief Executive Officer Jon Dutton and his team, which engaged players, competing nations, the Rugby League Players Association (Australia), UK Government, hosts, commercial and broadcast partners.

Tournament organisers faced several unique and complex challenges with the most significant being the non-release of up to 400 players, match officials and staff members from the NRL competition in Australia.

This is despite all requests from international rugby league federations having been met which included the rigorous health measures that have been keeping thousands of elite athletes from around the world safe whilst competing in major



sporting events across the UK over the last year.

Ultimately this decision has been detrimental to the plans and ambitions of many of the competing nations and potential replacement teams.

A key factor was ensuring that fans of Rugby League are able to enjoy the best possible tournament, which was not possible under these circumstances.

We are working hard to confirm new tournament arrangements including ticket details and availability and will be providing updates as soon as can. Fans can sign-up to receive postponement updates, including new dates and schedule [here](#).

"Today is a challenging moment for everyone involved in Rugby League, but most importantly the players and fans of the competing nations.

Ultimately, time and competing priorities from others forced us to make the most difficult decision in our six-year history. However, we and the sport of Rugby League are resilient, and next year we will deliver our vision of the biggest and best Rugby League World Cup ever.



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